LETTER

TO

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.

[Price One Shilling.]

A

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LONDON:
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MDCCLXXVI.

TO

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.

MY LORD,

AS you have undertaken the conduct of the American war, I beg leave to ſubmit to your conſideration ſome circumſtances relative to that country, of which perhaps you have not as yet been fully informed: I confeſs, my Lord, that I am no friend to the cauſe in which you are engaged, and it is not with a view to facilitate your operations, that I write this letter; it is in hopes to divert you from the moſt ruinous project (in my humble opinion) that this nation was ever engaged in; I ſhall not enter upon the ſubject of ways and means, I am not conver-

ſant in the buſineſs of finance, nor do I know all the reſources of Britain or America; but I know (what every body knows) that Britain owes 140,000000 l. and that Amemerica owes little or nothing; that the body of the people of England are averſe to the American war, a very inconſiderable part only having offered their lives and fortunes (upon paper) in ſupport of it; whilſt America is unanimous and determined, *bona fide*, to expend the laſt farthing of her property, and the laſt drop of her blood in defence of her liberty. I ſhall confine myſelf to the naval and military force of the Colonies, and conſider how far they are equal, upon an offenſive and a defenſive plan, to a conteſt with the mother country. And firſt, I think I cannot give you a better idea of

the

the naval force of North America, than by a liſt of the privateers which the ſingle province of New York fitted out in the laſt war. At a time too when they had a large body of ſoldiers in the field, 1000 Battoe men employed upon the rivers and lakes, and carried on an extenſive commerce to every part of the world.

Ships Names. Ships.	No. of Guns.	No. of Men.
Sturdy Beggar	26	200
Wolfe	24	200
Blakeney	20	150
Hercules	18	140
Colonel Prevoſt	20	150
Royal Hunter	20	150
King of Pruſſia	18	140
Duke of Cumberland	16	140
Oliver Cromwell	16	140
St. George	16	140
General Johnſon	16	140
Tartar	16	140
12	226	1830

Ships Names.	No. of Guns.		No. of Men.
Snows.			
Brought over	12	226	1830
Boſcawen		16	130
Royal Eſther		16	130
Cicero		14	120
Prince Ferdinand		14	120
Abercrombie		14	130
Greyhound		14	130
Revenge		14	120
Neptune		14	120
Hornet		14	
Brigantines.			
Earl of Loudon		14	120
Johnſon		14	120
True Briton		14	120
King George		14	120
Hawke		14	110
Prince of Orange		12	110
De Lancey		12	110
Mary		12	110
Hope		12	110
Charming Sally		12	100
Duke of Marlborough		12	100
George		12	100
Prince George		12	
Veſſels	35	536	4520

Ships

Ships Names.		No. of Guns.	No. of Men.
Brigantines.			
Brought over	35	536	4520
New York		12	100
Columbine		12	100
Schooner, Sampſon		11	100
Barque, Decoy		6	40
Sloops.			
Goldfinch		12	100
Squirrel		12	100
Fox		14	100
Catharine		12	100
Hardy		12	100
Prince Edward		10	40
Harlequin		10	50
Bradſtreet		8	40
Tyger		8	40
Veſſels	48	G. 675	M. 5530

From the above ſtate your Lordſhip will obſerve, that the ſingle province of New York equipt an armament

ment conſiſting of 48 veſſels, which carried 675 guns, and 5530 ſeamen. It is near 20 years ſince they made this figure at ſea; I believe I may venture to aſſert, that ſince that period their number of ſhips and ſeamen have been nearly doubled, and as their coaſting and foreign trade is now reſtrained by act of parliament, it may be preſumed, that they will have a body of 11,060 ſeamen ready to act againſt Great Britain: if to theſe be added the ſailors and fiſhermen of the whole continent, whom our oppreſſive acts have deprived of employment, and conſequently given to the defence of their ſeveral provinces; I believe I ſpeak within compaſs, when I ſay, that the number will exceed 40,000. My Lord, I aſſert, that the Americans can ſend 40,000 ſeamen to ſea; but that is

not

not all, they will all be volunteers, and they will fight without pay, or, what is the ſame thing, they will pay themſelves; for thoſe who fit out privateers do it at their own riſk, and for their own profit, and thoſe who man them receive no wages; the owners and the crews will be amply rewarded by the prizes they will take. For it cannot be ſuppoſed, that a people, whom you have deprived of their trade, will leave your's unmoleſted; they will attack you in every part of the world, and your whole fleet diſtributed in convoys, will not ſecure your commerce. In the Weſt Indies particularly, they will annoy you, where every French and Spaniſh port will be open to the reception of *their* veſſels and *your* ſpoils. If this war ſhould continue a few years, I ſhould not be

be ſurprized if we were obliged to purchaſe our own rum and ſugar from the French and Spaniards. You are not to ſuppoſe that your fleet will be maſters of all the harbours in North America, and that their cruiſers cannot put to ſea; there are many which your ſhips cannot enter for want of a ſufficient depth of water, and many, which have not a natural bar to your entrance, are very ſufficiently fortified by art. And here I muſt obſerve, that you are under a great error, if you think the Americans want artillery; they were well provided with great guns even before they took your ordnance ſtore-ſhips in ſight of your fleet; and they have made a moſt judicious diſpoſition of them. In ſeveral harbours they have batteries of 24 pounders, ſufficiently retired from the ſhore not

to

to be domineered from the tops of your ſhips, and ſufficiently near it to make a cullender of their hulls, Lord Howe himſelf, brave as he is, has too much judgment to attack ſuch a battery, he knows there is no ſort of compariſon between an oak plank and an eighteen foot rampart; theſe batteries are all defended by redoubts infinitely more formidable than that which coſt you *only* a thouſand men upon Bunker's hill. Upon this ſort of fortification I ſhall ſay a word or two before I finiſh this letter, which may poſſibly deſerve your Lordſhip's attention; in the mean time I would adviſe you to ſtop Colonel James and his bomb ketches; they will anſwer no end, very effectual meaſures are taken to prevent thoſe veſſels from arriving at Philadelphia, or laying before Charles-

town or New York; in every place that is acceſſible to this paltry piece of miſchief, the houſes that are worth preſerving are ſhoared from the cellar to the garret, covered with dung or earth, and will ſuffer little damage; indeed, the owner of every wooden houſe, which you may poſſibly deſtroy, after a whole day's bombardment, would be glad to ſave you the trouble, and ſet fire to it himſelf for one-tenth part of the money it will coſt you to burn it; but I dare ſay this abominable project will be laid aſide; it would diſgrace us, in the eyes of the world, we ſhould be execrated like Lewis XIV. for burning the Palatinate, with this difference, that the Palatines were not his own ſubjects.

But, whatever may be the plan of your naval operations, it muſt neceſ-

ſarily be ſuſpended during the winter; in the courſe of which I conclude, that the Americans will have equipt and ſent to ſea from different parts above 250 ſail of privateers, many of them little inferior to your frigates, and all of them much better manned in proportion to their ſize; ſince, then, you have provoked this neſt of hornets, be aſſured, they will commit all ſorts of depredations on your trade, and woe be to your merchant ſhips in every part of the world.—In Africa, in the Weſt Indies, and even in the Eaſt, in the Mediterranean, in the Channel, perhaps upon your own coaſts, and on the Baltick; you have no fleet in the Baltick, France has once forbid your ſending one there, and they will again forbid you; Sweden is the friend of France, and wherever a French, or Spaniſh,

or a Sweediſh port is to be found, the Americans are at home—Will they ſuffer your Pruſſian allies to ſend you naval ſtores, and will you be able to import any from Sweden, except in Swediſh bottoms and at their own price?—So much for the naval armament of the Americans.

Let us examine their ſtrength on ſhore: I have been favoured, by an American, with the following account of the numbers which each province can furniſh, which I believe is by no means exaggerated; they are effective men with arms in their hands, not in buckram or upon paper, as a certain army I could mention.

Provinces.	Men bearing Arms.
New Hamſhire	18,000
Maſſachuſet's	88,000
Rhode Iſland and Providence	14,000
Connecticut	40,000

New

New York	40,000
The Jerſeys	24,000
Penſylvania	100,000
Maryland	34,000
Virginia	34,000
North Carolina	18,000
South Carolina	12,000
Georgia	2,400
Nova Scotia (ſuppoſed to be revolted) about	4,000
	428,400

Here then are four hundred and twenty-eight thouſand four hundred freemen in arms, united in one great phalanx, to fight *pro aris et focis*. What a tremendous band of yeomanry! Europe, degenerate Europe, nay, I may ſay the old world cannot exhibit ſuch a ſpectacle; and ſhall haughty Britain, the ſhadow of her former greatneſs; ſhall Britain,

tain, with her mercenaries and her miſerable ſubſtituted militia, pretend to look this formidable power in the face? But they are an undiſciplined rabble, and you'll ſend 50,000 men to ſubdue them: that is ſooner ſaid than done, my Lord; they are nothing leſs than an undiſciplined rabble, and ſo far from ſubduing the continent with your 50,000 men (if you could ſend that number) you will find ſufficient employment for them in the ſingle province of Maſſachuſet's Bay. You will credit what I ſay when I aſſure you, that, excluſive of the lines with which they have inveſted Boſton, the continental army have conſtructed an octagon at Cambridge, which you would not be able to inveſt with leſs than 100,000 men. It is built upon Marſhal Saxe's plan; it is fraiſed

and

and palliſaded, has a ditch, cover'd-way, and glacis, and is well provided with heavy artillery; at the foot of the glacis is an abbatis de bois; the ramparts are caſemated with legs; at the diſtance of a cannon-ſhot from the cover'd-way is a circle of thirty-ſix ſquare wooden towers thirty feet diameter, the outward half of which are ſolid and cannon proof. Between theſe towers, which are five hundred yards aſunder, is another abbatis, and on the top of each are placed five or ſix rifle barreled ball-pieces, which carry a half pound ball; each of theſe towers will require a little ſiege to knock it down, and woe be to thoſe who ſerve your guns when you approach near them. Your batteries will be plunged, and neither mantelets nor aim frontlets will protect your gunners,

and

and yet under theſe diſadvantages you muſt ruin ten at leaſt of theſe towers, before you can form a ſingle attack upon the body of the place, which will be defended by ten thouſand men, whilſt you may expect thirty or forty thouſand more in the field ready to fall upon you and raiſe the ſiege; but I ſhall ſay no more of this fort, except that you will never take it, or, if by a miracle you ſhould, your army will be ſo weakened, that you will not take another in the ſame campaign; perhaps there is not in North America another place ſo ſtrong as this, but there are many that are by no means contemptible. Old Gridley (the ſame who conducted the ſiege of Louiſburg when the Americans took it in 1745) Old Gridley, I ſay, has formed a corps of engineers, whom he has inſtructed

particularly in the method of conſtructing redoubts. There is a chain of theſe fortifications from one end of the continent to the other; they are generally a ſquare, capable of containing four thouſand men, with four baſtions, a ditch, cover'd-way and glacis, fraiſed, palliſaded, and ſurrounded by an abbatis and trous de loup. Your Lordſhip muſt know the difficulty of taking ſuch a redoubt, but if you don't, aſk General Haldimand (one of the braveſt and beſt officers in your army) he commanded the grenadiers at Ticonderoga, and can tell you what it coſt to *attack* the breaſt-work and abbatis at that place; a German artiſt at Philadelphia has engraved on a copper plate, a plan and elevation of one of theſe redoubts, and prints of it are diſtributed all over the coun-

try. To ſave your army the trouble of looking for them, I will tell you the places where they are already conſtructed; the liſt is taken from a gentleman's journal, who has reconnoitred the whole coaſt with a military eye, and ſays theſe poſts are moſt judiciouſly diſpoſed. They begin at the north-eaſt part of New England, and end at the ſouth-weſt end of Georgia.

Norridgwock,
Richmond,
Falmouth,
Wells,
Portſmouth,
Salem,
Providence,
Stonington,
New London,
New Haven,
Rye,

New

New York,
Elizabeth Town Point,
Brunſwick,
Prince Town,
Trentown,
Philadelphia,
Cheſter,
Newcaſtle,
Gunpowder Ferry,
Palapſco Ferry,
Annapalis,
Port Tobacco,
Hoes Ferry,
Moſs's Ferry,
Southern's Ferry,
Nanſemond,
Bennet's Creek,
Edentown,
Bill's Ferry,
Bath,
New River,
White Oak River,

New River Ferry,
Cape Fear River,
Shallot River,
Wingaw Ferry,
Santie Perry,
Sewee Ferry,
Charles Town,
Pariſburgh,
Joſeph's Town,
Savanna,
Darien.

Here then are forty-four redoubts, will you take them all, or will you let them alone? If you take them, you will not have a man left of all your fifty thouſand. The redoubt upon Bunker's hill coſt you a thouſand, but that was a bicoque in compariſon of theſe — Well then leave them behind you; penetrate into the country; without oxen, without

without horſes, drag your cannon, your ammunition, your bread waggons, and your baggage through the woods, a cloud of rifle men in your front, in your rear, and upon your flanks, you will make a great progreſs, every paſs, every defile will be a coupe gorge for you, which ever way you point; they will down with the trees and up with the breaſtworks, you muſt win your march by inches, and before you have advanced twenty miles, your whole army will be an hoſpital. How will you carry your wounded men, how will you ſend them back? Will you leave them to the mercy of an enraged enemy, whoſe country you are attempting to deſtroy with fire and ſword, or will you ſtay to protect them? I ſhould write a volume before I had exhauſted the difficulties

you

you will meet with, or the resources of your enemies. In the interior parts of America every man's house is literally his castle. They are built of logs, and are musquet-proof; they have loop holes cut in them, and if they are garrisoned by half a dozen men you cannot take them without artillery. Every village that has a meeting-house and a burying-ground will have a barrack and a fortified post. The minister, with his bible in one hand and his rifle gun in the other, will harrangue and exhort his enthusiastic parishioners; he will tell them there are bishops in your army, and they will die by his side, and be buried under the ruins of his pulpit (by the by you will not persuade the highlanders, as loyal as they are, to meddle with ministers or meeting-houses): as I am

speaking

ſpeaking of the difficulties of penetrating into the country, it may not be amiſs to obſerve, that from the river Delaware (the channel of which is ſufficiently fortified) to the extremity of New England north-eaſtward, there is not a ſingle river navigable for a king's frigate; if therefore you mean to make uſe of the rivers, it can only be by boats and ſmall craft, and with ſuch you will be oppoſed in the proportion of ten to one, amply provided with wall-pieces and rifle guns, and accompanied with fire ſtages, to burn and deſtroy whatever they find a-float; add, that all the grain in the country will be lock'd up in redoubts, that the cattle will be drove off, and that there will be no ſubſiſtance left for man or beaſt: but you will have commiſſaries, who will contract to

ſupply

ſupply your army in all places, with proviſion and *forage*, (let me ſtop a moment at the word forage, and wonder, how any man could ever dream of ſending cavalry to America; only conceive, a dragoon with his bags, his bucket, his boots, his belts, his havre-ſack, his cloak, his cantine, his broad ſword and his carbine, galloping round a tree to catch a rifleman or an Indian, 'tis a cow catching a hare, one might laugh at it, if one was at liberty to laugh at any part of ſo ſerious a ſubject). Whoever makes this contract, let him conſider who is to be his paymaſter, for ſure I am, that neither the civil liſt, nor four ſhillings, nor fourteen ſhillings in the pound, will make good ſo enormous an expence; I would adviſe your Lordſhip to aſk General Gage what it is to conduct

an

an army through a wood in America, and what is the conſequence of a defeat in a deſart: he commanded Braddock's advanced guard, and he well remembers the peal that was rung in his ears upon the banks of the Monangahela; he knows too, that from the moment they were oppoſed they ceaſed to advance, that they left their baggage, their cannon, and their wounded behind them; and if they were not exterminated, it was becauſe they were not purſued. But, my Lord, the truth is, that theſe countries are impracticable to an army; nature, and a combination of circumſtances, are againſt you; *fata obſtant votoque tuo* Natura *repugnat*. Neither the intredity of an Howe, nor the intelligence of a Burgoyne, nor the perſeverance of an Amherſt will avail;

whoever attempts the conqueſt of America will loſe his legions, his life and reputation, as Craſſus, Varus and Braddock have done before him. You will ſay that your fleets and tranſports have Cheſapeak Bay open to them, and that the ſouthern provinces are acceſſible from that quarter: my Lord it is ſtill the ſame thing, the ſhores of Cheſapeak are ſtill a coaſt, and woe be to your troops if they quit it; they will find obſtacles enough in marching in ſight of their ſhips, as long as there are axes and ſpades, and men and fire-arms in the country; they will not make a move with impunity; attacked in landing, attacked in reimbarking, they will fritter away their ſtrength in impotent efforts, and without any advantage beyond that of ſometimes burning a houſe or a tobacco magazine!

zine! The inhabitants, aſſiſted by their ſlaves, will have conſtructed a multitude of redoubts, which you muſt either take or leave behind you; and deſtruction muſt follow either meaſure, whether you carry on the war collectively or detached; you will be oppoſed in every quarter, and your force will melt away in the ſouthern provinces, no leſs by ſickneſs than the ſword.

My Lord, I repeat it again and again, you cannot conquer the Americans. They have got faſt hold of the country, and you will as ſoon tear up their forreſts by the roots, as diſpoſſeſs them. I have ſaid nothing yet of the Indians. Theſe people in general are attached to the coloniſts by a continual and friendly intercourſe of trade; ſince the loſs of Canada they are abſolutely de-

pendent upon them for their guns, their gunpowder, their blankets, their tomahawks, their rum, and their vermilion; and with theſe guns and theſe tomahawks in their hands, theſe blankets upon their ſhoulders, and this vermilion upon their cheeks, theſe terrible allies in every provinde will join the provincial armies. Gentlemen of the guards take care of your toupees; if once your heads ſhould fall under the hands of theſe mercileſs hair-dreſſers, you muſt never appear in a ſide box again—But to be ſerious, for there is no part of this ſubject that will admit of a joke, let me once more intreat your Lordſhip, whilſt it is yet time to renounce this Quixotic project; follow Lord Chatham's advice, "*Projice tela manu.*" The ſpear of Britannia in this conteſt will be like that of Priam,

telum

telum imbelle sine ictu; but if it could be thrown with the strength of Achilles, it would only recoil with a dreadful repercussion upon the head of this infatuated country. Your Lordship is a young minister, and you are not yet callous to the feelings of humanity; you are a father and a husband, consider how many widows and orphans will be left destitute by this destructive war; amongst the various wretches it will make, I think there are none more deserving of compassion than your brother soldiers; those brave men who have fought and bled for us in every part of the world, and till this fatal period have only fought for glory. Alas! how changed is their condition! Forced into an unnatural war, starved, and slaughtered, and ship-wrecked on a distant shore, unthanked

thanked for conqueſt, unpitied for defeat.

—— Animæ viles inhumata inſletaque turba
Sternentur campis.

Once more, my Lord, let me conjure you, put up your bright ſword, you ſhall command more with words than weapons.—Speak reaſon to the Americans and they will hearken. If you proſecute this cruel and vindictive war, you will baniſh peace from your breaſt, and ſlumbers from your pillow; conſult your reaſon and your conſcience, take their advice if you will not take mine; deſcend gently from that giddy height to which your ambition has mounted; for if you fall, remember, *nul ne tombe innocent d'ou l'on vous voit monté*. Happy ſhall I be if any thing I have ſaid may induce you to change your opinion. And, in the

name

name of God, why all these efforts, this wanton waste of blood and treasure? The moment you have subdued and enslaved the Americans (was the thing possible) you must knock off their fetters, and restore them to their liberty. Whatever temporary inconvenience Great Britain may suffer, I do insist upon it, that henceforward all her dependencies must be as free as herself, or she will have no dependencies at all.

I cannot finish this letter without saying a word or two about the state of Boston and the army there. I hear, that General Howe cannot muster more than six thousand men fit for duty. The town is full of wooden houses, and has not a single cafemate. The provincials are in possession of the proper implements for a bombardment, and they have already

dy annoyed the town from a ricochet battery; *Creditis avectos hoſtes?* Do you think they have raiſed the blockade? *Sic notus Ulyſſes?* Do you think Lee ſuch a blockhead? Whether in mercy they may ſpare their fellow ſubjects lives, and chuſe to preſerve the town from deſtruction, is a queſtion; that they may deſtroy the town, and conſequently give law to the army, is beyond a doubt. I need not ſay any thing of Canada, my Lord, but that, like the other provinces, it is loſt; it is no longer between two fires, it is defended by double the numbers that it was in 1759; twenty thouſand men, and twenty ſhips of the line will make no impreſſion in that quarter; and though Saunders and Wolfe ſhould riſe reluctant from their graves to aſſiſt you, you could not recover it;

ſhall

ſhall we grieve, or ſhall we rejoice, that theſe heroes are no more? We muſt lament them, but their friends have at leaſt this conſolation, that they have died, with all their full blown honours on their heads, and have not ſurvived their own and their country's glory.

Fortunati ambo!
Nulla dies unquam memori vos eximet ævo.

It is ſcarce worth while to add to this letter the capture of St. John's iſland and the defection of Nova Scotia, they are circumſtances well known; all is loſt; but all may be recovered by a ſingle fiat, PEACE and LIBERTY. That lenient meaſures may ſoon produce this happy event;

and that your Lordſhip, and every honeſt man may contribute to it, is the ſincere wiſh of,

My Lord,

Your moſt obedient,

Humble Servant,

AN ENGLISHMAN.

P. S. If the Canadians ſhould accede to the grand alliance of the united colonies (which is more than probable) there will be an acceſſion of forty thouſand men to the American cauſe.

This Day is Publiſhed, Price Two Shillings,

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